

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 05170 250827Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 VO-05 CIAE-00 FBIE-00
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-----045127 250834Z /15
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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0742
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5170

DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM RO (RAUTA, CONSTANTIN) (REHM, JOHN)

SUBJECT: RAUTA FAMILY CASE: EMBASSY REPRESENTATION ON REHM
VISA

REF: (A) VIENNA 6668, (B) STATE 186093, (C) BUCHAREST 5120,
(D) BUCHAREST 5087, (E) BUCHAREST 5007, (F) STATE 180274

1. EMBASSY IS ALSO DISTURBED AT TENDENCY OF CAREFULLY LAID
PLANS TO PUT REHM IN TOUCH WITH MRS. RAUTA TO COME UNSTUCK,
AND HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN SALVAGE OPERATION SINCE IT WAS
NOTIFIED BY PHONE FROM DEPARTMENT THAT SNAG HAD DEVELOPED IN
VIENNA VISA ISSUANCE.

2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PHONE CALL, ACTING CONSUL CALLED
MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR RESPONSIBLE FOR US AFFAIRS
TO EXPRESS OUR UNHAPPINESS AND SUPPORT VISA ISSUANCE ONCE
AGAIN (SEE ALSO REF E), AND DCM FOLLOWED UP WITH MFA WESTERN
HEMISPHERE DIRECTOR AMBASSADOR BOGDAN AT AIRPORT WHEN
HE RETURNED WITH HARRIMAN PARTY AND ME FROM CEAUSESCU'S
SUMMER RESIDENCE AT BLACK SEA. THESE DEMARCHES WERE
MADE BEFORE RECEIPT REF B.

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3. MEANWHILE, CONSULAR OFFICER HAD REESTABLISHED
CONTACT WITH MRS. RAUTA'S SISTER, WHO INFORMED HIM THAT
MRS. RAUTA WAS IN THE MOUNTAINS, WOULD NOT BE IN
BUCHAREST JULY 25, AND WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST TWO DAYS
TO BE IN TOWN. CONOFF PASSED THIS INFO BY PHONE TO
EMBASSY VIENNA CONSULATE, WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, IN TURN

PASSED IT TO REHM.

4. REF A NOTES THAT REHM UNWILLING TRAVEL TO ROMANIA WITHOUT PROPER VISA. REFS A AND B ARRIVED HERE WITHIN MINUTES OF EACH OTHER; HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF REHM'S DECISION, IT DOES NOT APPEAR PRACTICABLE TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTION PARA 3 REF B (PREPARE FOR AIRPORT VISA ISSUANCE).

5. WITH BOTH CONSULAR DEPARTMENT AND DIRECTORATE V ACUTELY AWARE OF US UNHAPPINESS WITH SITUATION AND WORKING, AS WE HOPE, TO FIND A SOLUTION PERMITTING VISA ISSUANCE, DCM CALLED BOGDAN AGAIN AT OOB JULY 25 TO STATE ON INSTRUCTIONS DEPARTMENT "EXPECTS" VISA ISSUANCE. BOGDAN REPLIED THAT BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. JULY 24 AND 8:00 A.M. JULY 25 HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE INQUIRIES AND WAS THUS NOT SURE WHETHER QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED; DCM POINTED OUT THAT ON BASIS OF CABLE TRAFFIC AVAILABLE TO HIM ROMANIAN CONSULATE VIENNA HAD NOT GONE FURTHER THAN TO STATE IT HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ISSUE VISA, I.E. QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE HAS NOT BEEN RAISED WITH RESPECT TO VISA.

6. AT THIS POINT, WITH MRS. RAUTA IN MOUNTAINS AT LEAST UNTIL JULY 27 AND REHM APPARENTLY INTENT UPON RETURNING TO US JULY 26, PROSPECTS FOR MEETING WOULD BE VERY HAZY EVEN IF VISA ISSUED. WE WILL COCTINUE TO PRESS GOR FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUANCE THROUGH MORNING NEVERTHELESS.
AGGREY

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